

## **California Veterans Board**

# **Strategic Plan**

### **Information**

The Board consists of seven members appointed by the Governor, subject to the confirmation of the State Senate. All Board members shall be veterans. The Board reports to the Legislature annually regarding its activities, accomplishments and expenditures during the preceding fiscal year. The Board meets several times each year in different communities throughout California.

### **Mission Statement**

The California Veterans Board serves as an advocate for veterans' affairs identifying needs and works to ensure and enhance the rights and benefits of California veterans and their dependents.

### **Purpose Statement**

- To determine the policies for all operations of CDVA.
- To hear appeals from California veterans who apply for and are denied a benefit by any division of CDVA. Any person who deems himself or herself a veteran may appeal any final decision made by a division of the department to the Board.
- To serve as an advocate for veterans' issues.

### **Vision Statement**

To be recognized as a premier advocate for California veterans' rights and benefits and to make California the premier environment for veterans of the armed services of the United States of America.

### **Values**

The California Veterans Board and its members hold the following as core values:

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| • Knowledge  | • Integrity                                    |
| • Honor  | • Commitment                                   |
| • Courage  | • Dependability                                |
| • Justice  | • Honesty                                      |
| • Fidelity   | • Selflessness                                 |
| • Judgment   | • Patriotism                                   |
| • Non-partisanship   | • Respect for one another and for all veterans |
| • Duty to country, community, other veterans, and our men and women who currently serve in the armed services of the United States of America. |  |

## **Priority Issues for California Veterans**

**(Not in order of importance)**

**The following are issues of ongoing concern to the California Veterans Board:**

- Veterans' Healthcare
  - California veterans are provided information about their Federal VA healthcare benefits to include combat stress, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI); treatment options; where and how to apply; the process of applying for VA disability compensation; and the appeals process.
- Veterans' Employment
  - Initiatives to improve the climate for veteran's employment throughout California, including governments and municipalities at all levels and the private/corporate and non-profit sectors.
- Veterans' Education
  - All California colleges and universities, public and private, are providing information and assistance to all veteran students regarding Federal VA education benefits and how to apply for them; State educational benefits for members of the California National Guard and reserve components.
- Veterans' Homelessness Reduction and Treatment
  - Treatment of the root causes by improving veterans' employment opportunities; increasing substance abuse prevention and treatment programs, full implementation of California's alternative sentencing law and Veterans Courts and increased funding for rehabilitation.
- Veterans' Housing
  - California veterans are aware of the Cal Vet Home and Farm Loans program and the requirements for participation and that they have knowledge of the various Veterans' Homes for seniors; the procedures and requirements for admittance; the funding is adequate to ensure both programs continue at a high level of participation and/or care.
- Veterans Information
  - Communication with the 2.1 million veterans residing in California and their dependents so they have all information relating to benefits authorized by federal and state law, and that they know how to and to whom they can turn for getting answers if and when they are denied benefits.

## **Overall Goals**

1. Goal: To work in concert and partnership with the Secretary and Department of Veterans Affairs for the benefit of all California veterans.
2. Goal: As required by law, to develop, institute, and monitor policies for the California Department of Veterans Affairs that complement the Department's stated principles and protect veterans' rights throughout California.
3. Goal: To provide legislative advocacy for veterans' issues before the California State Legislature, the Governor of the State of California, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Congress, and the President of the United States as appropriate and/or necessary to enhance and/or protect the rights and benefits of California's veterans.
4. Goal: As dictated by law, to hear veteran's appeals and render decisions in a timely manner.
5. Goal: To ensure that the CDVA provides quality care and services in an environment of continuous improvement to ensure that the veteran's homes of the California system will be recognized as a model of excellence and innovation for integrated extended care for the aged and/or disabled California veteran.
6. Goal: To ensure that California veterans have access to information relating to federal and state benefits and to provide a forum at our board meetings for current dialogue about veterans' issues and concerns.
7. Goal: To be informed about the Cal Vet Farm and Homes loan program to include the interest rates, life and disability insurance.
8. Goal: To advocate for programs that serve all of our veterans, reach out to the homeless veterans, and keep our veteran cemeteries and memorials in good condition.